

# ACHIEVING FOR THE FUTURE



YMCA OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

3045 North Davidson Street

Charlotte, NC 28205

[ymcacharlotte.org/yachievers](http://ymcacharlotte.org/yachievers)

## Y ACHIEVERS PROGRAM OVERVIEW

### WHAT IS Y ACHIEVERS?

Y Achievers is a national YMCA program designed to help teens set and pursue high educational and career goals resulting in graduation and acceptance into a post-secondary institute or adoption of a vocation. Y Achievers helps teens improve academic performance, develop a positive sense of self, build character, explore diverse college and career options, and interact with professionals who serve as role models.

In partnership with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, Y Achievers currently serves students at West Charlotte, West Mecklenburg, and Vance High Schools, and is listed as a major initiative to help increase the graduation rate from 73.6% to 90% by 2014.

Y Achievers is year-round, enrolling new freshmen each fall. During the school year, students participate in weekly sessions and quarterly summits where they interact with business professionals who provide guidance and encouragement. Students also take part in job shadowing opportunities and college tours. During the summer, eligible rising juniors and seniors are provided the opportunity to work in paid summer internships.

### WHO IS SERVED?

Y Achievers serves students from varying academic levels at West Charlotte, West Mecklenburg and Vance High Schools. Students are identified through assistance from Communities In Schools site coordinators, school counselors, teachers, and administrators.

2011-2012	Vance	West Meck	West Charlotte	Totals	%
<b>Total Enrolled</b>	41	37	27	105	
<b>High Achievers</b> (GPA $\geq$ 2.8)	16	10	10	36	34%
<b>Average Achievers</b> (GPA 2.0-2.75)	11	17	11	39	37%
<b>Rising Achievers</b> (GPA 0.1-1.9)	14	10	6	30	29%

## Y ACHIEVERS SITE LOCATIONS

West Charlotte High School

West Mecklenburg High School

Vance High School

## YMCA PARTNER BRANCHES

McCrorey Family YMCA

Stratford Richardson YMCA

University City YMCA

## FOR MORE INFO

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# WHAT DOES THE PROGRAM INCLUDE?

## Weekly Sessions & Quarterly Summits

Y Achievers weekly sessions and quarterly summits are based on the principles of college/career readiness and character and leadership development, which align directly with the national YMCA model of the Y Achievers program. The weekly and quarterly sessions are designed to prepare students for current and future opportunities that exist within institutes of higher learning and the workforce pipeline. Subjects include Resume Writing, Business and Social Etiquette, Public Speaking, Goal Setting, and Building Your Personal Brand.

## Academic Enrichment

In partnership with S.T.A.R.S. Academy, Y Achievers offers an academic enrichment component to ensure students who are at risk of or are failing the core subjects of English and Math are equipped with the basic skills to attain academic growth. The academic enrichment is facilitated by certified teachers at each school immediately following the Y Achievers weekly sessions. SAT/ACT prep is also offered to the students during this time. The student to teacher ratio is 10:1, which is essential to guarantee students receive the individual attention needed to enhance their academic ability.

## Job Shadowing & World of Work Tours

During the school year, students have the chance to job shadow with local companies, an opportunity that opens their eyes to a broad range of career fields they might not have known existed. Last year, 70 students experienced job shadowing opportunities across 18 organizations:

Apex Recording Studio  
Babson Capital  
Bank of America  
Carolina Ale House  
Childress Klein YMCA  
CMC Hospital  
Discover Ready Law Firm  
Dr. Sandy Stovall DDS, PLLC  
Duke Energy

Hines Real Estate  
Lowe's Motor Speedway  
Moore & Van Allen  
Robinson, Bradshaw and Hinson  
Stratford Richardson YMCA  
UNCC Department of Theater  
University Hospital  
US Trust  
WTVI

## Summer Internships

During the summer months, eligible rising juniors and seniors are provided the opportunity to work in paid internships in a career field of their choice. The students participating in these internships work 20-40 hours each week in the summer. Through a partnership with the Academic Internship Program with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, students also receive elective credit for their summer experience. In 2012, 55 students participated in internships and collectively earned \$50,880 from the following businesses:

Belk, Inc.  
Charlotte Aviation Museum\*  
Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department  
Charlotte Regional Partnership  
Cornwell Corner  
Department of Social Services  
Dream Builders Communication, Inc.  
The Doobie Shop\*

Food Lion  
Goodwill Industries  
Harvey B. Gantt Center\*  
McCrorey YMCA\*  
Stratford Richardson YMCA\*  
TEACH Charlotte\*  
Y Achievers\*  
Y Readers\*

\*Indicates funding for internships was sponsored by the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department (\$12,800) or Mayor's Youth Employment Program (\$11,565)

## College Tours & College Goal Sunday

Y Achievers tour local colleges and universities throughout the year. In 2011-2012, the program offered tours of 5 state universities: UNC Charlotte, Winston-Salem State University, Wake Forest University, NC A&T State University and Johnson C. Smith University.

Y Achievers holds a College Goal Sunday where local college and university representatives speak with students about the requirements and opportunities at their individual institutions. A coordinator from College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC.org) is also available so students can learn how to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

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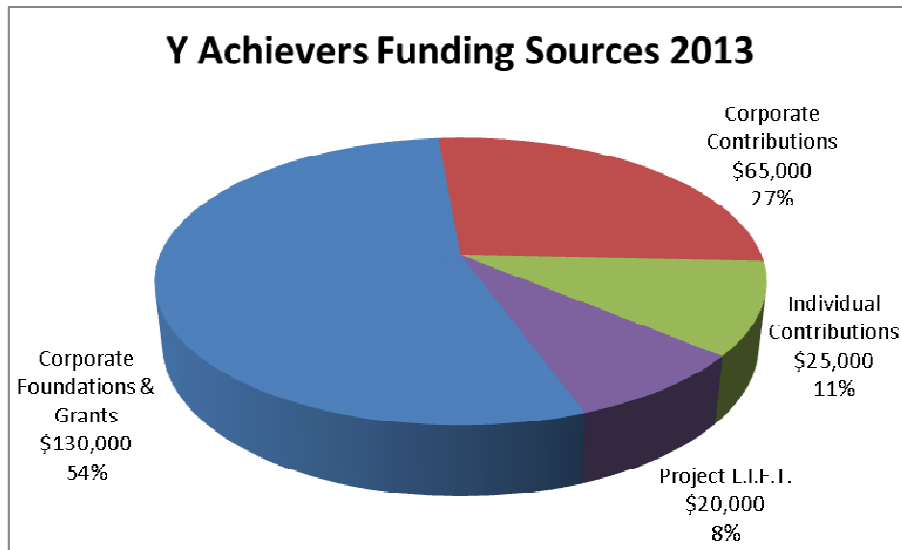
## IS Y ACHIEVERS SUCCESSFUL?

During the 2011-2012 academic year, Y Achievers served 105 students. By the end of the year, 51% of enrolled students increased their GPAs by .2 on average and 98% of participants established an educational or career goal. Initial, intermediate and long-term outcomes for Y Achievers include:

- 90% of students will learn something new about education and career opportunities each year they are enrolled.
- 90% of parents who attend workshops will increase knowledge about how to support their child's education and career goals.
- 85% of Y Achievers will have established an educational or career goal by the end of their 10th grade year.
- 85% of students who start the school year with a 2.5 GPA or lower will improve their GPA by year end.
- 90% of Teen Achievers who are enrolled in Y Achievers at the time of graduation will graduate high school.
- 70% of Teen Achievers will enroll in an institution of higher learning.

## HOW IS Y ACHIEVERS FUNDED?

Y Achievers is offered to families at no cost. We are able to provide this free opportunity thanks to corporate, foundation and individual contributions. The program receives funding from the Goodrich Foundation (United Technologies), Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina Foundation, Food Lion, Fifth Third Bank, Husqvarna and Charlotte Bobcats.



## WHAT DOES Y ACHIEVERS COST?

Y Achievers is offered to students at no cost. It costs the YMCA \$1,200 per student to run the program.

## HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

- **Team Coach** - Serve as a professional coach to a team of Teen Achievers (up to 4 youth). The time commitment is an average of 3-4 hours a month for 1 year.
- **Business Coach** - Host a Teen Achiever for a job shadowing opportunity during the school year (1 day) or for a paid summer internship (8 weeks).
- **Workshop Leader** - Help facilitate a workshop or presentation at a quarterly summit or weekly sessions.
- **Program Support** - Help provide additional support during events, trips and celebrations.

To volunteer, contact Michelle Mosko at [michelle.mosko@ymcacharlotte.org](mailto:michelle.mosko@ymcacharlotte.org) or 704 716 6390.

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